



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 DECEMBER 1965

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1. Rhodesia

The Smith regime has cut off oil supplies to Zambia, with a statement that supplies will be resumed as soon as Rhodesia has "countered the effects" of the British embargo. A form of voluntary oil rationing apparently has been put into effect in Salisbury.

The Zambian Government, in response to London's informing it of the oil sanctions move, has repeated that it regards the British as wholly responsible for any damage to Zambia resulting from the Rhodesian situation. The Zambians say they expect that the British will assure them 14,000 tons of oil a month while cutting off oil to Rhodesia from any source.

The British oil action may well have come too late to assuage the emotions of the Africans for very long. Unless diverted by other developments, the Africans are likely to press for United Nations action which would threaten Britain's position as the principal mover in the situation.

In London, there are more signs that bipartisanship is wearing very thin over Rhodesia. A motion to censure Wilson, and by implication the Tory leaders who have given him support, has been signed by 100 Conservative members of Parliament.

2. South Vietnam

The Montagnard uprising in the central highlands late yesterday now seems to be dying down, at least temporarily.

The government has reasserted control of Gia Nghia, capital of Quang Duc Province, and reoccupied Phu Thien, the district capital of Phu Bon Province. However, the situation at the three Vietnamese Special Forces camps which also came under Montagnard pressure yesterday is still unclear.

The embassy cautions that more flare-ups are possible.

3. North Vietnam

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The International Red Cross representative in Saigon says that he has received confirmation from Hanoi that unaccompanied visits to US prisoners will be permitted and that the North Vietnamese will provide lists of prisoners to the International Red Cross.

4. Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo was quiet at last report this morning, and there were only a few isolated incidents during the night.

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The strike picture is somewhat brighter also. A settlement has been reached in the sugar industry. Garcia Godoy says this will make it possible for Dominican sugar shipments to reach the US by 31 December and thus permit the country to fulfill its quota.

5. Colombia

The minister of war yesterday warned our ambassador of reports that the Communist-backed National Army of Liberation plans raids and terrorism against "prominent foreigners" during the next six weeks.

The first anniversary of the Communist terrorists' most effective raid is 7 January. US Embassy personnel have been alerted.

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6. Guatemala

Chief of State Peralta denies that there is any real cause for worry about a coup overthrowing him. He told the US ambassador yesterday that Guatemalans are simply nervous, "like nuns in a convent," and that terrorism in the country is no worse than elsewhere in Latin America.

Peralta notwithstanding, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] it remains to be seen whether recent shifts in the police command will bring more effective measures against the recent spate of kidnappings and killings.

7. Jordan

King Husayn says he has nearly reached the "end of the line" in his attempts to obtain Western supersonic fighter aircraft instead of the Soviet fighters which the United Arab Command wants him to take.

Husayn has been negotiating for months with the French and British. The cost of their aircraft still substantially exceeds the amount allotted by the United Arab Command to expand Jordan's air force.

Husayn is sending a mission to Washington in a final effort to persuade the US either to make up the cost difference or to provide Jordan with US F-104 Starfighters, the planes he really wants. He has already been told that F-104s are unavailable.

8. France

On the eve of the second-round election, the US Embassy in Paris reports that the general assumption is that De Gaulle will win, but not by the "massive victory" he called for in opening his campaign six weeks ago.

Regardless of the precise outcome, a number of French political analysts are predicting a shift to the left in domestic policy as a result of the elections. The popular mood, according to the embassy, is one of relief that the election affair will soon be over.

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